



The first of the above amendments has been made to remove multiple dependencies from the claims so as to reduce the filing fees. The second of the above amendments has been made to reintroduce those claims canceled when the multiple dependency was deleted.

It is submitted that the foregoing amendments expands Applicant's Patent coverage and/or were not related to a statutory requirement for a patent and thus do not give rise to prosecution history estoppel. It is further submitted that no new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC

Harold L. Novick

Registration No. 26,011 Customer No. 20, 529

Date: January 12, 2001

NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC 1030 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Sixth Floor Washington, D.C. 20005

(202) - 775 - 8383

HLN/kb